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REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 16-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 1.

Claims 1-4 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marusawa et al. (U.S. 5,498,999) in view of Krishnamurthy et al. (U.S. 5,653,841). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to recites:

"A nonreciprocal circuit device comprising:
a laminated body having an upper surface, a lower surface and side surfaces and comprising a magnetic substrate made of a ferromagnetic material, a permanent-magnet substrate laminated on the magnetic substrate, and a plurality of central conductors disposed on the magnetic substrate, the plurality of central conductors intersecting each other in a central area of the laminated body while being electrically insulated from each other;
a yoke integrated into the laminated body; and
an electrical component provided within the laminated body and electrically connected to one of the plurality of central conductors; wherein said electrical component is formed on an upper surface of a dielectric substrate in said laminated body; and
said yoke is defined by a magnetic material layer laminated on the upper surface, the lower surface, and the side surfaces of said laminated body; and
an electrode is laminated on a portion of the upper surface, the lower surface or the side surfaces of said laminated body."
(Emphasis added)

The present claimed invention including "said yoke is defined by a magnetic material layer laminated on the upper surface, the lower surface, and the side surfaces of said laminated body" and "an electrode is laminated on a portion of the upper surface, the lower surface or the side surfaces of said laminated body" provides a nonreciprocal circuit device which includes integrated elements. With the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in the present claimed invention, the productivity and reliability of the nonreciprocal circuit device is greatly improved (see, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 of the present application, as originally filed).

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The Examiner acknowledged that Marusawa et al. fails to teach or suggest an integrated permanent magnet substrate and yoke which are laminated to the device. However, the Examiner alleged that Krishnamurthy et al. teaches an integrated yoke comprising magnetic thin films 214 and 239 and a magnet 216. Thus, the Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to have integrated the yoke and the permanent magnet of Krishnamurthy et al. in the device of Marusawa et al.

However, neither Marusawa et al. nor Krishnamurthy et al. teaches or suggests "an electrode is laminated on a portion of the upper surface, the lower surface or the side surfaces of said laminated body" as recited in the present claimed invention.

Marusawa et al. fails to teach or suggest any electrodes provided on any of the upper surface, the lower surface or the side surfaces of a laminated body, and certainly fails to teach or suggest "an electrode is laminated on a portion of the upper surface, the lower surface or the side surfaces of said laminated body" as recited in the present claimed invention. At best, Marusawa et al. merely teaches internal electrodes 33-38 which are clearly provided inside of the laminated body (see Fig. 4 of Marusawa et al.), which certainly cannot be construed as being "laminated on a portion of the upper surface, the lower surface or the side surfaces of said laminated body" as recited in the present claimed invention.

Similarly, as clearly seen in Figs. 2b and 4 of Krishnamurthy et al., Krishnamurthy et al. fails to teach or suggest any electrode provided on any of the upper surface, the lower surface or the side surfaces of a laminated body, and certainly fails to teach or suggest "an electrode is laminated on a portion of the upper surface, the lower surface or the side surfaces of said laminated body" as recited in the present claimed invention. In contrast to the present claimed invention, the only element provided on any of the upper surface, the lower surface and the side surfaces of the laminated body of Krishnamurthy et al. is the magnetic layer (34 in Fig. 2b and 214, 239 in Fig. 4).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Marusawa et al. and Krishnamurthy et al., applied alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claim 1 of the present application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits

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that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-4 and 16-22 depend upon claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this Application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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